

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejections, Claims 4-7 and 10 have been cancelled in favor of newly presented Claims 11-16, which present certain distinctive features of the invention more precisely. The outstanding rejections are, of course, moot in view of the cancellation of the previously presented claims.

Newly presented independent Claim 11 recites a nonvolatile storage device which comprises a controller, a buffer memory including a plurality of banks, and a nonvolatile memory. The controller effects control to receive data from outside of the device, to store received data to the banks of the buffer memory, and to write received data from the banks of the buffer memory to the nonvolatile memory. The controller detects whether received data has been written from each bank of the buffer memory to the nonvolatile memory, and effects control to select, for storing further received data, one of the banks of the buffer memory that is not storing received data yet to be written to the nonvolatile memory. The controller provides a first signal to the outside of the device when the controller detects that all of the banks of the buffer memory are storing received data yet to be written to the nonvolatile memory.

The Kaki et al. patent, which was cited in the outstanding rejection of independent Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a), is not seen to suggest the aforementioned features of the present invention as now particularly claimed. Moreover, it is apparent that the aforementioned subject matter of Claim 11 avoids the outstanding rejection for same-invention double patenting.

Accordingly, a further action which is favorable as to all presently pending claims is respectfully solicited.

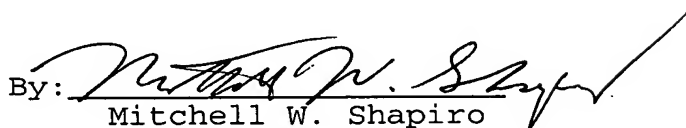
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:lmb

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